

November 20, 1999

TO: John Berry, DOI & Mark Van Norman, DOJ

FROM: Toni Keahiolalo Mallow
Kanaka Maoli of Hawai'i

SUBJECT: RECONCILIATION PROCESS

Aloha mai! Mahalo to you and the United States government for this opportunity to give testimony on my feelings concerning the Reconciliation process.

As a Kanaka Maoli of today, I was raised as an "American". It was instilled in me, early on, that if I was to succeed in life, I would need to learn the "American" way of life. Being a Hawaiian, during that time, was not something to be proud of. I accepted just about everything taught to me, from religion, American history, social attitudes and a love for America. With that way of thinking, I adjusted well within the "American" community and lived for 30 years on the continent quite successfully. However, little did I realize that there was an inborn Hawaiian spirit within me that waited over 45 years to emerge.

I have missed a lot and am embarrassed that I am not as learned as I should be in my Hawaiian history and language. But in the last 10 years, I have immersed myself in my culture and by moving "back home", I am walking my cultural path. It has pained me and saddened me as I have learned of the injustices to our Queen and our people. I am appalled at the insensitivity to our indigenous culture. As I look back, it reminds me of the things I was taught in school about the Russians and communist control.

I applaud the fact that President Clinton recognized the injustice done.

As for reconciliation, this is my stand:

1. Allow the Hawaiian people to form their own governmental process
2. Return all ceded lands to the Hawaiian people/government
3. Return federal taxes paid by the Hawaiian people, including those who have died -- (return to surviving descendants)
4. Waive all educational fees (federal/state) for Hawaiians

Again, mahalo for this opportunity. May God help you and guide you to be righteous.

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